

have more than one application, as does most of Scripture. The Lord spoke of the period of working in His Father's business, beyond age 12, as His "day of 12 hours" – 21 years ending with His crucifixion (*Jn. 9:4*). The one third of this day would be seven years, at the end of which the light would merge into darkness and darkness into blackness. Since most of Europe is no longer known for its strong stand on the plan of God, the darkness would apply to intensifying deterioration in the political, business and social environments. But also, the Lord uses a day for a year (*Ezek. 4:6*). The one third of this day is four months. From other passages of Scripture, we can understand that World War III will go very badly for the Christian nations – until Jesus Christ steps in to reverse the trend (*Matt. 24:22*). The one third of the day and one third of the night, in this reference frame, would indicate four to eight months of serious setbacks, intensifying into almost utter defeat by the Bestial-led bloc. Loss of hope among all not familiar with the Lord's plan would intensify the blackness. And of course, there would be the literal blackouts now typical of war conditions.

The day and night also provide a double witness. The double witness into the night as well as the day indicates the extremity of the events and intensity of the forces which are now rising to bring these things to pass. There is the one-third for the "day" people, the upright of the State Church and the upright non-believers. Also, there is the one-third for the night people. The children of the day will be kept from shining, but also, the children of the darkness will not be permitted to do their thing to obtain what they desire.

: 18 After the fourth Trumpet has begun to sound, an angel flies through the midst of heaven warning and proclaiming three woes to the inhabitants of the earth because of the Trumpet blasts which three more angels are afterward to sound. The angel warns of the intensity of turmoil and conflict then to be added with the blowing of each successive Trumpet. The intensity of the now developing world crises is a result of that which is being unleashed during the blowing of the fifth Trumpet.

REVELATION 9

(Trumpets 5-6)

The Fifth Trumpet

1-2 It could be argued that with the turbulence of the 1960's, the hosts of Satan began to swarm out of the pit where they have been confined. This swarm was not the very beginning of increased demon population on the earth; God has been limiting the activity of demons in the world lest man would be corrupted beyond measure. But now He is progressively loosing the forces of the pit in order that traditional Christians may be tested in a way that has never happened before. We are in the preparation for the final stages of God's plan for the climax of the ages. He is also making ready His heavenly army to contend with the forces of Satan which are gaining free access to the minds and hearts of mankind. The closing of that army with the enemy will bring about the final scenes of the ages-long battle which has been raging since the time of man's fall.

Although in times past, the number and activity of evil spirits has been limited to prevent God's plan and schedule from being subverted, God is now ready to allow the full number of Satan's legions to enter into almost uninhibited reign upon the earth, in order to fill up the wickedness of this day. Intense fear shall grip the inhabitants of the earth as they see the results of God's permitting the hosts of the nether world to come and prey upon them. There are two reasons for His doing so. One is to place man in the Valley of Troubling as a door of hope for him (*Hos. 2:15*). The other is to expose man to the demon's torment, as man (in effect) asks for it. The wickedness of man shall become great as he succumbs to the subtleties of the enemy, and great will be the perversions of truth and distortions of righteousness as these evil spirits make their impact upon an unsuspecting and unready mankind. Even now is the fifth Trumpet blowing, and even now more and more evil spirits are being released from the pit. The numeral 5 is the number of liberty and freedom, and God is giving increased liberty to the forces of Satan to subvert the masses so that His plan shall reach its consummation on schedule.

The star which has fallen from heaven to earth is Satan, the destroyer, Abaddon or Apollyon (:11). He it is who is king over the invisible hosts of darkness. He it is who is leading the evil spirits in their warfare. The pit is the place where most of the evil spirits, fallen angels, have been kept. These hosts from the pit, the forces of Satan, rise as smoke to darken the sun and pollute the air. This indicates that they will work through human agencies to corrupt the truth of Christianity (the sun) by all kinds of error and deceiving doctrine of demons in this day (obscuring smoke). Christendom's traditional belief in Jesus will not be enough. The traditional "loving Jesus" will not be enough. The traditional belief in the Bible as God's Word will not be enough. Multitudes of believers will fall into destroying error.

This trend is now being fulfilled in the liberalism and modernism which has completely destroyed the true Gospel in vast segments of the so-called Christian populace. The pollution of the air is the contamination of people's thoughts with all kinds of filth and perversion. The forces of Satan are bringing great darkness upon the earth as they work to subvert the Christian message, and to pervert the thinking of people into ways of Godlessness and unbridled pleasure, because "life is passing me by."

:2 The creatures being released are likened to locusts, which devastate everything in their path. The forces of Satan, like locusts, will bring a great scourge upon mankind, until there is nothing left of material value. They are released gradually so their devastating work will not develop more rapidly than is God's plan, and so that His purposes will not be precipitated too soon, but they will continue to be released throughout the fifth Trumpet's sounding.

:4 These forces from the unseen world are pictured not only as locusts, but they possess the sting of scorpions. They are commanded not to hurt all the grass, nor all green things, nor all trees, and only trouble those men who do not have the seal of God in their foreheads, referring especially to unready Christians. (See comments on *Rev. 3:12*, page 106). Note that there is a difference between being subverted by these evil spirits and being "hurt" by them. The "hurt" refers to actual physical harm or destruction which will come later (:10) as the spirits are given both authority and means to precipitate vast numbers of men into physical conflict.

The first phase in any locale is a subversion into explosive hatred, a time when the “grass,” the “bushes” and the “trees,” which are peoples of various classes, will not be hurt or destroyed in great numbers (*Ezek. 17:24; I Pet. 1:24; Jdg. 9:7-15; Isa. 40:6-8, 44:4, 61:3; Lk. 6:43*). These people will not be immediately hurt, in their own thinking, because of inability to foresee the ultimate consequences of coming under the influence of the evil spirits; they will be a people deceived, believing a lie instead of the truth (*II Thess. 2:10-11*). They will believe that the doctrines of demons, being taught through perverted leaders, even in many perverted church systems, and the so-called new liberties in godless pleasure-living into which they will be goaded, are to their benefit, and are a part of the glorious new way of life which man is achieving. The goal of the satanic spirits is to enmesh the inhabitants of the world in delusion, in a sort of intoxication of pleasure-madness and libertine conduct which gives vent to perverted desires and ways. In the minds of the people, what they initially experience will not be a “hurt,” but rather an opening up of life. What this delusion brings about is an abrupt end to the freedom to pursue pleasure, symbolized by the scourge of the locust and the sting of the scorpion. We see two results of such delusions in genital herpes and A.I.D.S. However, the demons will not be able to touch those having the seal or nature of the living God in their minds (*Lk. 10:19*). Christ’s immortal seed of righteousness will constantly draw them into more and more shaping their lives within the frame of His plan. God will protect His own so they will not be subverted by the devices of the enemy. But even “good” people not so protected will be tormented as by a scorpion’s sting, because their “goodness” is not measured by love of righteousness, or even a hatred of all the wickedness coming over the earth. They will be tormented because conditions in the world will become so desperate and critical they will not be able to give full vent to pleasure drives and self-indulgence. They will want to escape, not from the wicked delusions of the times, but from the chaotic conditions which will be the inevitable result of unbridled license and lawless living.

The evil spirits shall distress selected civil and religious leaders not having God’s seal of protection. These perverted leaders (trees) have been and will continue inflaming the masses (grass) and smaller group leaders (bushes) into civil conflict (*Rev. 9:10*). Their minds and emotions have been taken captive by the power of Satan. This prospect is evidenced by the evil spirits being seen both as locusts and as horses equipped for battle (:7). The locust was always one of the most terrible scourges afflicting nations of ancient times, bringing great devastation; the horse has always been a symbol of the power to make war. Therefore, even though the evil spirits do not initially hurt the people, they bring them into the delusive intoxication of seeking what pleases them. The masses, however, will feel the impact of the hurt when they take to the streets to carry out their purpose and carry away whatever they want, a people prepared for slaughter by evil spirits.

:5-6 The “five months” of torment may be seen as a period of 150 days, but it is also a period of liberty or freedom of access to the minds and hearts of unregenerate mankind. (“5” is the number of liberty of access.) Because conditions within Christendom will become so desperate, many people will seek escape through death, but, because of the gripping fear, even death shall flee away from them. The torment inflicted by the scorpion’s sting results primarily in foreboding fear. But there

is by then another fear, so great that men will even fear to take their own lives, though they will wish that they were dead. The fear is initiated among the unregenerate when the Firstfruits suddenly disappear. Six days later, they visit the earth with news from the Throne. No longer can any man say there is no God. All will be well aware that God is becoming *very* active. Many will fear to take their own lives because of the greater fear of where God will then send them. Increasingly, fear will be generated by chaotic conditions.

A double picture is shown here. The seeking of “death” is also symbolic of their desire to escape these things while still on earth, yet being unable to do so. Here, also, death pictures a state of being ineffective in some environment. Death does not always mean a cessation of physical life, but rather an escape to a realm or place where the torments of life cannot reach, making them ineffective – as if by death. Therefore, it is shown that many will try to escape from the tormenting effects of the activity of the evil spirits, but shall not be able to find a place of hiding.

Just as man reaches understanding and skills in *living* through his use of the wholeness of the Word of God, so also we should study the *Book of Revelation* in its wholeness. *Revelation 3:10* speaks of “the hour,” not precisely one hour of testing yet to come upon the whole Christian world (men who have rejected God and Jesus Christ need no testing for faithfulness to Him!). Having seen the Lord measures the period of “daylight” in His Father’s business – age 12 to 33 – as 21 years (*Jn. 9:4-5, 11:9*), we understand His “hour” is 21 earth months of 639 days. Although the period of “wilderness” testing on the *Revelation 12:6* woman church (Catholic) is 1260 days, the approximate “hour” of testing (about 635 days) initiates for Protestant lands nearly half way through the 1260 days of Great Tribulation “wilderness.” This 635-640 days would be the period beginning with global World War III and terminating on the Day of Trumpets with the taking up of the Lord’s Harvest Host of millions of His glorified saints.

Revelation 2:10 tells of ten days of affliction, presumably by the mother harlot (*Rev. 2:9*). The full “24-hour day” of the Lord’s work would be 42 years, and 10 “days” would be 420 years. But in the more intense short-term fulfillment, a year is as a day to the Lord (*Ezek. 4:6*). The 420 days of affliction would precede the 635-640 days just mentioned. The *Revelation 9:5* and *10* five months would embrace 150 solar days of intense perverting of those *not* having the seal of God in their foreheads, preceding the 420 day period.

We have seen the Firstfruits are to be taken on the tenth day of the sacred month of Nisan, 1,260 days prior to the Harvest group rapture. On the 16th day of Nisan, they are to return to work with the most dedicated of the Christians remaining on earth, “the foolish virgins,” during at least 40 days – totaling 46 days. On Nisan 10, all men must admit the Firstfruits having been stolen away *by God*, and the Great Tribulation then impending for all who remain. The setting for fear and reaction is in place for all who do not have the seal of God in their foreheads. Fear and apprehension certainly bring an appropriate timing for the *Revelation 13:11* land beast government to come into satanic power.

This becomes the scenario:

The Firstfruits taken on the tenth day after the new moon.

The Firstfruits return to earth six days later.

The Firstfruits work with the “foolish virgins” during at least 40 days. An added 10 days brings *the* Pentecost outpouring.

The land beast of **Revelation 13:11** is given power during 1,260 days, terminated by the Lord’s personal return. This beast’s 1260 days terminate 14 days after the **Revelation 12:6** women’s 1260 of testing; therefore, although he has been previously evident, the land beast’s investiture of satanic power over the nations during these 1260 days will begin 13-14 days after the Firstfruits are taken.

When the beast is empowered, the short term “Day of the Lord” is initiated. It extends into the Great Pentecost Outpouring. The 1,200-12,000 then filled with Spirit power Fire will be the ones who shall not have gone over the cities of Israel (Christendom), before the Son of Man returns (**Matt. 10:18, 23**). Signs and wonders follow them.

Because of the chaos during the subsequent 150 days, many people in many nations will agree to align with the land beast, who will promise peace and plenty again. These are the five months of harassment and hurt of **Revelation 9:5,10**.

Then there would be ten “days” (420 solar days) of afflicting the faithful (**Rev. 2:10**) by those of the Church inadvertently led by Satan, the harlot mother of **Revelation 17:2** and **18:3**.

Finally, “the” hour of testing (**Rev. 3:10**) on all Christians would begin. It would terminate almost two years later (635 days) on the Day of Trumpets. With the testing finished, the Harvest Host of millions is taken up. That would be precisely 1260 days after the Firstfruits had been taken. It is also during this 635 day “hour” of testing that the fury of global World War III begins, mounts, climaxes and terminates. The land beast’s power over the nations lasts 1260 days. His 1260 days terminate on the Day of Tabernacles, when the Lord personally sets foot on the Mount of Olives.

In this scenario, the identity of the **Revelation 13:1** sea beast ruler probably would be evident to all about 30 days prior to the taking of the Firstfruits. A final testing of the potential Firstfruit’s faithfulness would be initiated on about the same date. There would be serious conditions, especially in Palestine, prior to the Firstfruits lift-off, pictured by tempest-driven waters and the cry going up, “Lord, do you not care that we are perishing?” (**Mk. 4:38**). The perilous conditions will lend impetus toward giving a strong man authority to begin to use something like the U.N. to drive all nations toward his objective of peace. “One will come in his own name whom you will accept” (**Jn. 5:43**).

All the earth shall feel the impact of the loosing of the satanic hordes (**Lk. 21:35**). None shall escape their onslaught, unless they have been accepted by the Lord and sealed by God in their foreheads. None will be able to stand without God’s help. Only those who have learned to look to Jesus Christ and utterly trust in Him and who habitually spend *much* time seeking His face and studying His Word will be in position to receive that help. He can uphold any man only so far as that man will

trust Him to do so – and only as that man reaches out in *the* Faith to receive His strength. These are fearful times, and only those who continue to look to Jesus Christ will be able to keep themselves from falling into the morass of wickedness and ungodliness which will engulf all mankind.

The evil hordes will whip up the masses of the pagan lands into an orgy of bloodshed unprecedented in human history. Great will be the slaughter of human lives as the masses rise up to clamor for their rights and seek to take things in their own hands. Frenzied mobs will rule many lands and cause all who oppose them to be killed. Many will perish in riots and revolutions as men seek and demand what has been withheld from them. There will not be enough police or troops to stop the surge of the masses as they rise up. Paralyzing fear will grip the hearts of the people as they see chaos and ruin sweep across many lands.

Evil spirits will prey on every human weakness and bring out every base instinct in human nature. The lust and greed of man shall reach a level never seen before. Perversion shall be great in the earth as the spirits of the nether world torment men with unholy desires and cravings, and prod them into avarice and grasping, and stir their emotions to fever pitch with envy, hatred, malice and every other sinister feeling.

The resultant chaos from the blowing of the fifth Trumpet will forcefully drive men to seek alliance with some kind of all-powerful government which will promise to keep order and peace on the earth. In this way, the groundwork will be laid for a world confederation to emerge offering peace and security to all nations coming under its administration. Thus shall the beast powers of *Revelation 13* be raised to control the inhabitants of the earth, to *make* them give allegiance to the god of materialistic force (*Dan. 11:38*).

Two beasts shall arise (*Rev. 13:1,11*). The first already had its *inception* in the communist combine of nations. The second is to emerge as a coalition of communist and non-communist nations which will seek to force a world socialist rule upon all other nations, enforced by a world police organization. They will try to make all men worship and bow down to the image which they create, world socialism, which truly is the image of the first beast. To take advantage of the developing chaos, the second beast rises shortly after the Great Tribulation starts, seeking to clamp a world socialist dictatorship upon the nations of the world, holding out to them the image of a planned order and economy which will provide peace and plenty for all. Out of desperation, many people will be ready to receive his promise of utopia. Eventually they will receive the mark of the beast in the foreheads and hands. They will give mental assent to its image or idealism, believing a lie instead of the truth. Then they will be forced to work for its realization by giving the power of their hand to it. After it is too late, they shall find that they have surrendered their rights and freedom for an illusion, but they will be hopelessly trapped in a web of their own making. They will be unable to extricate themselves, for the beast powers will have the means of enforcing their rule over all. The rule of absolute dictatorship will control people through work credits and statistical allocation of daily basic needs. Then there can be no more pleasure seeking and no more self-indulgence.

:7 After the leaders of the masses are thoroughly prepared to carry out their subverted ambitions, then comes the civil conflict (the horse) and great destruction.

Then they are “crowned” with authority to commit their followers to battle. The “faces” of the locusts are the faces of men, the very men who have been prepared to hurt the people of the nations through their madness.

:8 The locusts which have the faces of men also have the hair of women and the teeth of lions. The hair indicates their complete captivity to emotions (harmful). Esau means hairy and he was captive to his negative or evil desires. Samson, while his hair was uncut, became captive to ultimately destructive desires. The term “woman” is used to symbolize the soul, which is the seat of desire. The locusts having the “teeth of lions” indicate their absolute determination to gnash and devour, until they have completely attained their goals of stripping the cities.

:9 The “breastplates of iron” show that they will be unyielding and will persevere to the end. Nothing will turn them back from their destructive designs. The “sound of their wings like a roar of the chariots of many horses, running to battle” indicates that they will engulf many nations in destructive slaughter. The evil spirits shall do this through those leaders who have not the seal of God on their foreheads, but whose minds are completely taken captive by satanic devices.

:10 The locust’s “tails” indicate lies and deception (*Isa. 9:15*). After the horses are prepared for battle, the locusts are permitted to hurt men. The “torment” of *verse 5*, primarily fear, and the “hurt” of *verse 10*, actual destruction and killings, will increase during the five months. After 153 days of development, governments will find means of partial control, but the whirlwinds set in motion will continue (*Jer. 23:17-20, Hos. 8:7*). Once the conflict (hurting of men) has started, it will be intensified by the government’s ruthless countermeasures, and it will not let up until the consummation of all things and the return of the Lord in power and glory.

:11 The king over the invisible hosts of darkness, which are given freedom to attack the inhabitants of the earth, is called Abaddon, meaning destruction. He is Satan who is leading the evil spirits in their work of destruction and devastation.

:12 The announcement that “the first Woe is passed” does not mean that the events seen within the fifth Trumpet’s blowing have completely run their course, but that the forces released by the Trumpet’s sounding are then past recall. What is then set in motion is as if accomplished; the results are inevitable. Along with the two Woes yet to come, the fifth Trumpet (the first Woe) continues to mount in intensity until the end of the age.

Already the agents of the pit are greatly multiplying on the earth, and the die is cast for its inhabitants. Many months pass while the forces of the nether world are carrying out their tormenting activities, but during these same months, God shall move by His Spirit to bring an unprecedented revival and deliverance and great victory for those who truly hunger for Him (*Jer. 29:11-13*). A mighty spiritual power will be evident to all as His specially prepared servants go out to confront the enemy with the power of their God. While the earth is seething with unrest, there will be a deliverance from on high as the hosts of the Almighty come to put down the forces of Satan and cast them into the bottomless pit from whence they came. Therefore, rejoice that you *can* know the truth which will set you free from all fear and which will give you great confidence and assurance for the days that lie ahead. Do not fret because of what has been revealed. Yahweh-Jesus is with you to keep

you and to protect you from all harm – as you keep placing yourself wholly in His keeping, and live in accord with the Law and the Testimony.

The Sixth Trumpet

: **13** The Sixth Trumpet began to blow June 6, 1967, during the six day Israeli war and the events under the sixth Trumpet continue to develop. Russia has before and will again move into the Mediterranean and enter into complicated manipulation of the Euphrates area nations.

: **14-15** The sixth angel, who has the sixth Trumpet, was instructed to loose the four angels bound in the great river Euphrates. The four angels referred to here are the spirit princes (leaders) who are the unseen rulers of four Islamic nations described by the term “Euphrates.” “Euphrates” can be translated as “breaking forth.” That river is always linked with destruction at flood stage. Water links with soul and people, therefore also with a religion such as Islam. It has ever been their practice to convert to Islam – or destroy.

First let us look at a *preparatory* fulfillment leading to *the* fulfillment of the **Revelation 9:15** prophecy. After World War II, four such nations were bound together by the Baghdad Pact, in an attempt to create a buffer against the encroachments of communism. They were Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and Pakistan. The influence of the Christian west, Britain and the U.S. (making six nations), which was instrumental in causing these nations to be bound together in an anti-communist pact, has been destroyed in that area. This is one meaning of the statement that the four angels were liberated to destroy one-third part of men. The destroying here is not literal, but symbolic of the complete elimination of the power and influence of the two western Christian nations to keep the buffer intact, the two being one third of the specific nations involved. The elimination of the one third has paved the way for some sort of totalitarian takeover. These two Christian nations are the equivalent of the pattern of the descendants of Isaac, who are one third of the house of Abraham – the other two thirds being the descendants of Ishmael, son of the Egyptian, Hagar, and the descendants of the sons of Keturah (**Gen. 16:1-12, 25:1-6**).

The Pact has long been dissolved or loosed, and those Euphrates nations can no longer be an effective buffer to contain or hold back subversion and advance. They will eventually become a part of the Beast combine, and one or more will actually be counted among the “horns” of the beast of **Revelation 13**. In 1958, the King of Iraq was assassinated, and the nation turned away from the western influence. In 1979, Iran deposed its ruler and took on a new form of government which formally resigned from the CENTO group of nations that emerged from the Baghdad Pact. About this same time, it became clear to attentive Bible students that another development leading to the end-time fulfillment of **Revelation 9:15** took place on December 5, 1977. Four Islamic nations (Algeria, Libya, Syria and South Yemen) agreed to militarily oppose any peace with Israel. But even beyond that, a final fulfillment is sure to come.

The liberation of four such nations to destroy one third of mankind cannot be logically applied to mankind worldwide. No combination of Islamic nations has that capability. Therefore, to the thoughtful, it would connect with the Lord’s Tabernacle design which featured three portions. The Holy Place would refer to Chris-

tians generally. The Holiest would refer to those Christians who have entered and maintained their Holy Spirit Baptism status. The outer court one-third would thus refer to the Chosen People of the Jewish nation, who were always in the outer court of the actual Tabernacle and now still remain outside of the Holy Place.

This 1977 agreement was also shunted aside – by the deaths of the rulers of South Yemen and Algeria, bringing new administrations on the scene. Nevertheless, the year, month, day (391 days) should start prior to the initiation of World War III, which begins with the month of January and ends 21 months later in October. And the 391 days probably start long enough in advance to allow time for the local conflicts to build up into World War III. Therefore, when four Islamic nations do sign a formal pact fulfilling *Revelation 9:15*, it will be 13 months to the time when big guns boom again in preparation for the outbreak of World War III.

There is reason to believe that in January 1970, the New Jerusalem entered the earth's stratospheric envelope, and that in April 1978, the New Jerusalem came in closer to be in position to receive the Bride of Christ. In April and November 1981 and March and June 1982, the widely observed test flights of the shuttlecraft Columbia were brought to successful conclusions as natural, physical preview types of the Bride of Christ being lifted off in her glistening white, glorified body, orbiting the earth and returning. It would appear her actual lift-off cannot be far off. Preparation will be step by step but rapid. After the Firstfruits disappear, a four Islamic nation pact directed against Israel. It would be followed by small conflicts into serious war in close sequence, leading to the opening of World War III in all its horrors two years later.

How very much we need to prepare and recognize the Lord's hand in *everything* that takes place in our lives. How much we need to learn to value what He is doing each day for our benefit and strengthening. How much we need to remember to honestly rejoice in the trials and testings, and to give thanks and praise for His loving attention toward us. How important it is for us and for others to remember that we are charged with being watchmen to warn others who are at the point of being or are ready for Truth – even if the warning is belittled (*Lk. 17:24-28, Ezek. 33:1-11*).

: **16** Immediately following this picture of the four angels, there is a description of the army which is also prepared to be loosed for great destruction. This is an army which will overflow, just as the Euphrates River typically overflows at flood stage (*Isa. 8:6-8, Jer. 47:2*). The number of horses (descriptive of the power to make war) and men, 10,000 times 10,000, is symbolic of the entire force of the Beast empire in its quest to overrun western influence in the Middle East and bring that entire area, including Palestine, under its banner. The 10,000 times 10,000 is a multiplied witness indicating great intensity of fulfillment. The ten symbolizes world power in soul power (here in dictatorial slavery), and "000" pictures the completion of the spirit's purpose. Dominion gained in this area, the mighty hosts of the communist world will be emboldened to overrun other nations, symbolizing the spilling over of its banks by the Euphrates. This is also shown by there being two 10,000's. Two is descriptive of earthly, carnal man's error and instability. God's lowest number of revealing Himself to man is 1,000 (the volume of the Holy of Holies). That number for a nation is 10,000. In a negative application, 10,000 is also the number of the god of this world (Satan) being revealed to a nation. The

square of 10,000 is to indicate the extent of his mastery on earth.

: 17-18 The vision was one of an army of horses and riders, with the horses having heads of lions. First propaganda and lies will be used to soften the nations of the Middle East for subsequent invasion. The military action and destruction are pictured by the fire, smoke and brimstone of modern war. The breastplates of the riders, seen as fiery red, sapphire blue and sulphur yellow, indicate the determination and destructive intent of those who are ready to plunge the world into chaos to gain their diabolical ends. These are Satan's colors, and "lion" and "serpent" are titles of Satan (*1 Pet. 5:8, Rev. 12:9*).

: 19 As the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails, even as serpents (lying demons), so is there both the determination and the power to poison by propaganda (*Isa. 9:15*), and to put to death (serpent's heads) those who stand in the way of their plan to exterminate the influence of Christianity from the face of the earth. Even after much destruction has been wrought in the earth by these forces, the people do not repent of the works of their own hands, their idolatries and their wicked ways. Judgments alone will not turn people to their God, but when coupled with a mighty moving of His Spirit, many will turn to righteousness, and a great Harvest will be brought forth to God.

The blowing of the six Trumpets present a dark picture. They deal primarily with the outer conditions of a world which has turned its back on God, conditions which bring judgment upon the earth. But there is another picture in Scripture of light which outdoes the darkness. The Lord arises and shines on *His* people, and great glory is seen upon them – far greater than the darkness (*Isa. 60:1-2*). During the dark days ahead there shall be exceeding great light for those willing to believe and receive the grace and glory of their God. For them, the darkness in which no man could work effectively (carry-over from 300-1500 A.D.) has already passed (*Jn. 9:4*). For them, a *new day* is dawning. The greatest harvesting into the Kingdom that the world has ever seen will be done even in the midst of the *world's* darkest hour.

Do not think that Pentecost has past! There is yet to be an outpouring of the Holy Spirit far beyond anything the world has seen. It takes the "latter rain" to bring the growing "fruit" into maturity so it can be harvested. This exceedingly great outpouring will take place at the blowing of the seventh Trumpet. A preparatory work is being done even now as the other six Trumpets are sounding.

Egypt's Ten Plagues

It is the Lord's purpose to deliver His people from the oppression of the enemy (Satan and his hosts), as was pictured in the release of Israel from the Pharaoh of Egypt. He has prepared vessels which will be used to lead his people in the days ahead, as typically Moses and Aaron were used in the days of Egyptian bondage. The events and people of that day foreshadowed the plan of God to bring a release from Satan's bondage to all who trust in Jesus Christ. The time has come for people to know the prophetic meaning of the plagues upon the land of Egypt, when the Lord delivered Israel with an outstretched arm and with fury poured forth.

First, Moses and Aaron showed signs from the Lord to all the people of Israel (*Ex. 4:30-31*). Then they appeared before Pharaoh and demanded that God's people be freed. But Pharaoh hardened his heart and refused. It was not until Moses and Aaron were able to demonstrate Divine power that Pharaoh was moved to relent, but even then he hardened his heart again and again to hinder God's purpose. Egypt symbolizes the world. Pharaoh, king of Egypt, is a symbol of Satan. Israel, God's Chosen People, is a type for the Body of Christians, the true Church which is also spiritual Israel (*Gal. 3:29*). Moses and Aaron are figures of those who will be used to lead God's people in these last days. Pharaoh's hindering actions picture the activities of Satan in this end-time.

Knowing his time is short, Satan is working with all his might to keep people in bondage. He is reluctant to give ground to any who would challenge his hold. Therefore, God has determined to raise up those who, like Moses and Aaron, will be empowered by the Holy Spirit to demand the release of the captives and *see* them go free. The Lord is moving powerfully in this day to liberate His people so they might worship Him three days in the wilderness (*Ex. 5:1-3*). The three days are a type of the 3 1/2 years of coming Great Tribulation when great numbers of dedicated Christian overcomers will be liberated into a realm of the Spirit they have not known before. In their new-found freedom, they will truly worship God in spirit and in truth. They will do so in the wilderness of the Tribulation, when with mounting fury Satan will seek to keep people in bondage. This will be that "time of great testing which is to come on the earth to try every man" (*Rev. 3:10*).

As the nation of Israel prefigured the many nations, and Jesus Christ prefigured the many membered Body of Christians, so also do Moses and Aaron prefigure specific groups of people in the endtime. They were appointed to work together in the power of the Spirit to bring forth a great deliverance. Moses was the younger of the two brothers, Aaron the elder, but Moses was the leader of the two. Since Aaron was older, he is a type of that which comes earlier in time, while Moses follows (*Ex. 4:16, 7:1,7*).

The same picture is presented in *Revelation 12:5-6*, where two groups are shown.

There the “woman” or earlier company, represents the Church-in-development with which God is working to raise up ministers in power during the Tribulation. But before that ministry in power begins, a “Manchild” is taken out of her to be quickly caught up to the Throne of God (*Rev. 12:4-5*). The “Manchild,” being the younger, is the latter day Moses company which will progressively come forth in deathless life as Manifested Sons of God. The “woman” develops into the Glorious Church; she becomes the latter day Aaron company. The two groups will work together on the earth plane to deliver God’s people, using the “rod” to demonstrate Divine power. That “rod” is the Word of God, spoken with power and authority by those whom the Lord will commission and that Word will be confirmed by mighty signs and wonders.

It is written that the Lord’s two witnesses will have the power to do signs and wonders and to smite the earth with plagues (*Rev. 11:6*). The truth of the *Revelation 11:3* two witnesses also has more than one application and fulfillment. In this context, the two witnesses, typified by Moses and Aaron, are the Manifested Sons and the Glorious Church in the latter days. They too shall be empowered to bring plagues upon the earth as a part of their ministry, as did Moses and Aaron.

There were ten plagues on Egypt to effect the release of the Israelites. Each of these previews a complete fulfillment in the end-time. Although there is a measure of chronological sequence in the end-time fulfillment of the ten plagues, there is also overlapping and even concurrent fulfillment in some of them. There are two perspectives, the over-all end-time period, and a short-term intense time of fulfillments. From the perspective of the over-all, the first six plagues are, in measure, already in progress, beginning with modern day bloodletting through revolution. From the perspective of the short-term intense fulfillment, the first three plagues begin with some intensity prior to the Great Tribulation period. From both perspectives, all ten plagues have their most intense fulfillment during the Great Tribulation, the last four occurring only during that 3 1/2 year period and running somewhat concurrently, though not completely so.

#1 Plague, Water (*Ex. 7:19-25*)

Moses and Aaron were given authority to turn the water of Egypt into blood. Water is a type of the human soul with its emotions and feelings. Blood is the result of people killing each other when emotions get beyond control. In our day, human emotions (water) will be so aroused with passions and desires that much blood will be shed. The trouble will rise from several influences. In relation to the chosen servants, it will be reaction against the authority of the Rod, the power of God’s Word spoken against the godless and licentious living that will abound among the multitudes.

The Word preached in power in the days ahead will bring great division among the people. It is because so many are being taken captive by doctrines of demons, and because the spirit of libertine conduct is spreading into all segments of society. Even the church world is losing its moorings, believing less and less of the inspired Word, taking on more and more of the reasonings of man based on pseudo-science. People generally will be lovers of pleasure more than of God (*II Tim. 3:1-4*). Compromises of all kinds will be the order of the day and the “water” of human emo-

tions and desires will run rampant.

Quite unexpectedly in the midst of this moving away from truth and righteousness, a few people will rise up to speak with the authority of their God, and they will wield a rod of truth which will startle and anger the multitudes. Many will hear and be converted, but more will react against those preaching a strict code of righteousness and will denounce them as the reactionaries. His Word spoken in that day by His servants will be a creative Word, for the very speaking of it shall bring it to pass. The multitudes who refuse to hear will experience the judgment of that spoken Word, for the Lord's Word cannot be thwarted. The very speaking of the Word of judgment will inevitably turn the waters into blood. Those who refuse the truth confirmed by many signs will be turned over to the delusion of their perverted sense of knowledge, and they will become the victims of their own emotional instability. No situation of such instability will be overlooked by the host of demon spirits. They will push on the emotions to magnify each instability and goad into excesses wherever possible. The results will be senseless but effective destruction.

Because of this satanic control and influence, building up the conflicting interests of people pursuing perverted desires at fever pitch, tense strife will develop over all major issues of the day. It will become commonplace for people generally to take matters into their own hands, applying means of intimidation and violence instead of reason. The "water" of soulish desires and emotions will drown out logic, and the resulting intense conflict and violence will bring on much bloodshed – the turning of water into blood. Conflicts will arise in all conceivable relationships, in even many more issues than we see today. This will keep the general condition of society in such a tumultuous and fluid state that excessive pressure, extortion, terrorism, and other forms of emotional outbursts will be the order of the day. So will constant bloodletting. This will be the judgment of the Rod, the Word of God, upon a people who have refused to hear the truth.

The fish in the water are a type of emotions. Only as man is regenerated can he gain control over them. The picture of the fish dying in the Egyptian waters turned to blood indicates the control and influence of Satan today over the people's expressed emotions. The magicians of today also deal with the emotional outbursts, in part and in measure, by employing the tricks of the psychic trade. By these they are able to help maintain a measure of immunization against the effects of the plague (*II Tim. 3:8*).

But the result of the first Plague was simply to harden the heart of Pharaoh. So also in our day, Satan will harden his control over people by increased dictatorial powers placed in the hands of those who are working for absolute supremacy of the beast governments. The seven days of the Plague on Egypt point particularly to a final 70 years of plague on the world of Christendom, a period which began during World War I (*Ezek. 21:12-14,27*).

#2 Plague, Frogs (*Ex. 8:1-15*)

When Pharaoh refused to let the people of Israel go free, Moses and Aaron were commanded to lift the rod over the same waters that had been turned to blood. Thus we are viewing the result of the same condition of emotional instability in those who have been turned over to the delusions of their sense-knowledge and will have

become obsessed with or in some cases, possessed by satanic spirits. As a result, frogs came up out of the waters and covered the land of Egypt, entering the houses of all the people. This is symbolic of the second Plague of judgment which is to come upon the inhabitants of the earth in the end-time. Because of the instability of the times and the susceptibility of the people to all kinds of emotional onslaughts, many kinds of "isms" will develop: cults, pseudo-religious movements, quasi-front-groups subtly promoting extremist positions and causes of all kinds, opportunists and quacks, subversives with their propaganda, government protagonists in autocratic rule, science deifiers and atheistic and agnostic hucksters of all kinds of libertine thought and conduct. These are the "frogs" with their croaking doctrines of demons (*Rev. 16:13-14*), preying upon every segment of society, invading the houses and even bed-chambers and beds (rulers, people and servants).

Indicating what will take place in the end-time judgments, because of this plague, Pharaoh relents momentarily, giving permission to the people to go and sacrifice to their God (*Ex. 8:8*). In the midst of all the croaking of frogs, a certain segment of people will begin to turn in earnest to their God, causing Satan to lose his grip on many. Pharaoh's hardening his heart again indicates Satan's attempt to counter God's move by strengthening his hold on the majority of the people, and by instigating persecution against those who are turning to righteousness. The picture of the frogs dying out of the houses, out of the villages, and out of the fields indicates there are three groups which will enter into the ways of truth, turning from the ways of deceit and godless living (*Ex. 8:13*). The houses represent the 100-fold Christians, the villages the 60-fold Christians and the open fields the 30-fold believers (*Mk. 4:20,28*). The degree of their turning away from unrighteousness and error, and the extent to which they *enter into* the truth, believing into Christ, will determine their grouping. From the open field of the 30-fold they can progress to the village of the 60-fold and finally into the house of the 100-fold. Each step brings a more intimate contact and association with the living Christ, to become His household (*Eph. 2:19*). As in the first Plague, the "magicians" do deal with the "waters," in part and in measure to help depress the multitudinous croaking of conflicting interest.

#3 Plague, Lice (*Ex. 8:16-19*)

Suddenly and without warning a third Plague came upon Egypt. Aaron stretched forth his rod and struck the dust of the earth, and out of the dust came lice, biting gnats or mosquitoes upon every man and every beast. In this end-time there are mysterious diseases and afflictions which will come upon the inhabitants of the earth because of their lawless and godless ways (*Lk. 21:11*). Again it is the stretching forth of the rod, the preaching of the Word of truth which is shunned and rejected, that causes judgment to fall. Doctors will not be able to cope with the situation as unprecedented maladies attack both men and animals. This is the end-time fulfillment of the wise men of Egypt trying to bring forth lice and being unable to do so. Many of the serums developed in our time will have little to no effect. Today, many demand millions of government dollars to develop protection from the beginnings of such maladies.

Many physicians will frankly admit the need for turning to God for an answer, even as the magicians of Egypt said, "*This is the finger of God*" (*Ex. 8:19*). Dur-

ing the two preceding Plagues the “enchantments” were in some measure successful in dealing with the emotional violence that leads to bloodshed and in dealing with the many croakings of conflicting interest. When the third Plague strikes with increasing ferocity and multitudes of humans and animals are affected by diverse maladies, the wise men will soon learn that their methods of treatment are not getting results. Many will agree that only God can intervene and save much life from perishing.

Lice come from the dust. Man’s body is made up of the elements of the dust. Therefore, the lice also picture some of the more rebellious spirits being assigned by God into human bodies in our time to fan the conflicts of interest (the frogs) into very much irritation for all people. Particularly since the 1920s, the result is evidenced in expression of personal liberty to indulge in one’s own stupid ideas, even drawing others into them. We are in a period of change from previously accepted ways in society to new concepts, such as the “new morality.” Such changes do not promote calm and well-being, but develop intense emotional strain. That, coupled with physical abuse, produces chemical imbalance in the body and leads into hard-to-explain disease, as well as epidemics of the more common maladies.

In the overall end-time perspective, these three Plagues (and the following three) have some measure of fulfillment already, but the short-term end-time fulfillment of the first three is yet to begin with intensity just prior to the Great Tribulation. In the short-term end-time application, the fourth Plague begins concurrently with the start of the Great Tribulation and with the taking up of the 144,000 Firstfruits group (*Rev. 14:1*).

#4 Plague, Gadflies (*Ex. 8:20-32*)

The fourth Plague is of particular importance, because the land of Goshen, where the Israelites were living, was separated in order that they might receive protection. Likewise at the end of the Church Age, the Lord will protect from the effects of this Plague all those who put their *complete* trust in Him (*Jer. 17:7-8*). He will be able to do this because the dedicated Christians will have learned not to panic and be overcome with anxiety, recognizing the Lord’s loving hand in every event and circumstance. Those will have learned to observe *John 14:27*, knowing Him as the Provider, Protector and Deliverer. This Plague did not come as a result of Aaron lifting up the rod; it came as an immediate, providential judgment, and as a sign to Pharaoh and the Egyptians of the supremacy of the living God (*Ex. 8:22-23*). In this last day, the Lord will likewise demonstrate His being-in-charge of the affairs of the earth and all mankind. The judgment will not come primarily as a result of peoples’ refusal to hear the Word of truth, but to vindicate the Name of Jesus Christ. The judgment will be part of His strategy to bring His people to their knees and to speed up the work of the Holy Spirit in a people of His choosing. Because of their rejection of His truth in action, even many Christians will have had none of His extrication from troubles they have brought upon themselves.

Just before the fourth Plague falls, there will be a two-fold dividing. First a 144,000 group of the most choice saints will be separated and suddenly removed from the physical realm into the spiritual or heavenly realm their physical bodies being instantly translated into glorified bodies. The removal of this 144,000 First-

fruits group (*Rev. 14:1*) will then trigger a further division. Those people remaining on earth who are truly the Lord's will immediately recognize the significance of what has taken place and without hesitation shall turn to the Lord with their whole heart to seek Him as never before. Each one not in the Firstfruits company remains on earth because of having rejected the Lord in some measure. But then, some will repent. However, full repentance is often a process taking time. Not even all the then "dedicated" Christians will immediately repent fully – only a very few. But after a short time of earnest petition, the Holy Spirit shall be poured out in a mighty deluge of power (*Joel 2:28*). These stunning spiritual developments will divide those who truly mean business with the Lord from those who are mere professors. Truly all-out Christians will be clearly demarcated from those who make a pretense with a form of godliness (*II Tim. 3:5*). The separated land of Goshen thus becomes a type of those who have *completely* renounced Lucifer's kingdom and have been regenerated into the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. The separated *all-out* Christians will then have complete protection from the effects of all succeeding Plagues, for the 144,000 group of glorified saints in a supernatural ministry will be on constant duty with power to appear and speak words of guidance and give help.

Immediately after the dividing, the fourth Plague comes as it did on Egypt. The Plague is the aftermath of the judgmental division that has taken place by the power of the Spirit. The Plague cannot be separated from the dividing, for it is one judgment. Those all-out Christians who are in the symbolic land of Goshen are not affected by the aftermath because they will have entered into the reality and assurance of the Holy Spirit. How sad for all who refuse to go out to teach the Revelation message to at least some others. Those who come to understand the message shall then know where they stand and what the future holds for them. The Lord will not arbitrarily set up a separated town or large acreage to which all these Christians can go to become separated after the Firstfruits are taken away. Nor do they become separate where they are by the Lord's sudden decree or adjustment. They are separate because by that time they will already have made themselves separate, refusing to allow their minds to become troubled by rising prices, more extensive shortages of needful items, increasing crime, national peril, and by the many upheavals in the economy, etc. in the growing chaos. But the people who are still a part of Lucifer's kingdom in the spirit of Egypt's land will be in a state of utter confusion. They will seek answers, but will find they have none. Yet they will still be too much in love with the world and the things of the world to turn from their unrighteous ways.

The gadflies of the fourth Plague in Egypt were terribly annoying but in themselves not actually destructive. They entered the Egyptian's houses until they were full of them. In the end-time the house symbolizes an intimate relationship. And the gadflies are a type of torments, fears, uncertainties, resentments and inward disturbances in those people who will have become aware of the mighty "division." The torments are a direct result of the strategic removal of the Firstfruits group, but even then most people remain too willfully carnal to change their ways.

Flies picture uncleanness and the practice of uncleanness; the larger and more hairy, the more unclean. The practice of uncleanness leads to degeneracy. In our time especially, man's expression of his ideas on personal liberty to do whatever he really wants to do has spread like wildfire in Christendom. It is being condoned,

even applauded by some Church dignitaries. The leaning on erudite men to show the road to utopia is the way of today. It is the abandonment of God and the expansion of man's ego. It is Lucifer's freedom of determination. Degeneracy then leads to destruction. Today, man can safely walk on the moon, but not on many city streets after dark!

Though not wanting to abandon their worldly ways, relatively large numbers will become increasingly interested and concerned about spiritual things – fearing for their own safety and future. This is the picture of Pharaoh again seeming to relent (*Ex. 8:25*) and giving permission to the Hebrews to sacrifice to their God. However, note that Pharaoh specified sacrifice in the land of Egypt rather than in the wilderness, picturing a compromise Christianity which many will prefer. The acceptable sacrifice must include the "*Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world*" (*Rev. 13:8*). But the Egyptians in the land would not permit the sacrifice of sheep. The sheep represent the followers of Christ. So few will permit the sacrifice or giving up of self-life and of worldly possessions, in order that they might be redirected into usefulness to the Lord. The result of refusing the sacrifice is an abomination, because the retention results in perpetuation of that which is of no value to the Lord. This is the abomination of the Egyptians in the Lord's view (*Ex. 8:26*). As Moses stood firm on this point, so also God's true servants in this day will not agree to any compromise form of Christianity which will not acknowledge the necessity of the immortal blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ as God's Lamb. Because of their uncompromising position, the true servants of God in the Great Tribulation period must take the three-day journey into the wilderness (*Ex. 8:27*). Again, the three days picture, in a round number, the 3 1/2 years of Great Tribulation which is coming upon the earth (*Ezek. 4:6*).

There will be much tribulation before, but the 3 1/2 years will be the most intense part. The "wilderness" is a type of the testing through persecution which will be the lot of all who then determine to remain true to their God in unwillingness to compromise with the "Egyptians" of this world. Pharaoh again relents slightly saying "sacrifice in the wilderness, but don't go very far" (*Ex. 8:28*), picturing the continuing attempts to get Christians to compromise. Then Pharaoh hardened his heart again (*Ex. 8:32*). After the initial shock of realization that the 144,000 group has been taken begins to subside and the torments and fears are somewhat allayed, the worldly will become more confirmed in their ways, a hardening of Pharaoh's heart.

#5 Plague, Animal Plague (*Ex. 9:1-7*)

This Plague, a result of Pharaoh's refusal, is not directly on man, but on his "animals" – his possessions. In the days of the Exodus, a man's land and his animals were the essence of his wealth, and the loss of the livestock of Egypt was a crippling blow to that economy. Men were dependent upon animals, not only for food, but for most basic work needs and for commerce and transportation. This is symbolic of what shall come upon the nations in this end-time. During the chaos developing under the influence of the evil spirits announced by the fifth Trumpet, the monetary wealth of all nations will be largely destroyed. Debt and interest increases will cause prices and wages to spiral upwards. Then ceilings are placed on wages, continued inflation will eat up buying power until the average person

will be able to earn enough only to cover basic necessities. The eventual debt and interest load will then collapse the entire monetary system and money will then be practically worthless. Savings and investments will mean nothing.

Freedom to buy and sell will be wiped out. Government control of everything will be mandatory for survival. Money will be replaced by a statistical control system by which people's lives will be regulated through computer-controlled work credits and assigned consumer allotments. The computers will keep track of each family's work contributions (credits) and the amount of goods and services provided for its upkeep (debits). All business will be controlled and those not complying will be unable to purchase raw materials. The flow of goods and services will be regulated. Distribution will be on the basis of statistical need and work credit contributions. Special requisitions will be required for purchases other than daily needs. The basic framework of this controlled society will be the result of years of planning and scheming by an intellectual caste which dominates the thinking of the higher echelons of government personnel.

The Plague was on the Egyptian animals or wealth, but not on the Israelites (*Ex. 9:4-6*). The true wealth of a "born again" child of God is spiritual; he is rich in Christ (*II Cor. 8:9, Rev. 2:9*). The failure of man and his systems cannot in any way destroy the value of his treasure laid up in heaven (*Matt. 6:19-21*). The reality of God's presence and power among His people in this end-time will be so strong that they will not be greatly affected by the wiping out of accumulated monetary wealth. Their joy, affection, and hope will be so centered on Jesus Christ, and His glory will be so great upon them, that they will take little interest in the strictly material things. Whatever temporary inconvenience they suffer will more than be made up by the exceedingly great spiritual wealth which will be theirs during that time. It will be because they will have begun to press into their full inheritance of the Kingdom blessings and powers prepared for them from the "foundation" of the world.

There is also a correlation between the destruction of the animals of Egypt and the economic controls depriving man of the exercise of his basic drives toward acquisition and gain. "Animals" are a type of basic tendencies, habitual inclinations and drives in carnal human nature. "Birds of the air" are a type of thoughts of the mind (a carnal mind is under Satan's rule – *Lk. 8:5,12; Jer. 5:27*). "Fish of the sea" are a type of emotions and feelings, and "Beasts" are a type of native talents, animalistic drives and carnal avarice (*Gen. 1:26-28*). It is this inner world of human nature over which man has failed to gain dominion that is causing all the chaotic conditions among peoples and nations.

This fifth Plague is pictured as a contagious disease becoming a pestilence on the animals. Man's *not* taking control over his below human standard propensities (unregenerate nature) develops dependence on man's ego. Man's rejection of almost every Word of God and His plan for human relationships has brought today's unprecedented situation of legalizing homosexual behavior and making it honorable. That takes deeper root in the disrupting of domestic balance. The child who will not listen to his Parent takes himself into more and deeper trouble. But Christians today may, but need not suffer loss to the Plagues of the world. "Israel" should be separated from "Egypt."

The mania of those who are working for a government-controlled society is based upon the false notion that man can be reformed if he is deprived of the opportunity to exercise and give vent to mental, emotional and volitional tendencies which corrupt society. Since man will not control himself, he must be controlled in every way of life and must be gradually immunized to his former corrupt self. Therefore, there must be an all-powerful government by self-appointed guardians of the masses. Who is to control and immunize the guardians is problematical. Such is the bankrupt thinking of men who have turned from God to the delusions of their own ways.

Man's outer world can abound in goodness and peace only as man's inner world of thoughts, emotions and drives are *completely* subdued and channeled into the glory of his God. The problem is spiritual, not economic, neither political, nor social. Only as man is regenerated within can he gain dominion over the "birds of the air, the fish of the sea and the beasts of the earth" within his own microcosm. This is man's first and primary task which was set before him at the very beginning. God's concern was not with man's gaining dominion over the outer world. *Genesis 1:26-28* was but an allegory to portray the inner world of man's being, and the necessity of gaining dominion over every thought, emotion, desire, ability, propensity, and drive until *all* resources and forces within reflect the beauty and glory of God above. Gaining dominion over the outer world was secondary and is contingent upon gaining dominion over the inner. Those who have gained a commendable measure of dominion over their inner being, through applying the grace and power of their God, will be given an inheritance and authority over the outer world of the earth and all its inhabitants, being commissioned to rule and reign with Christ. However, they cannot possibly be trusted to thus rule with Christ, until they have gained dominion over the inner realm of mind and heart.

#6 Plague, Boils (Ex. 9:8-12)

After Pharaoh's heart was hardened again, refusing to let the people go, a sixth Plague became necessary. Moses was commanded to sprinkle ashes from the furnace into the air, in the presence of Pharaoh. Then open sores broke out on both man and beast. Satan (Pharaoh) is the prince of the powers of the air (*Eph. 2:2*) and this Plague signifies the power of Satan to cause men to unleash the destructive fire of nuclear energy, which pollutes the air. The residue of the burning fire (ashes) was sprinkled in the area, symbolically polluting it. The resultant breaking out of open sores on man and beast pictures the effects of residual radiation emitted from the waste products of nuclear explosions. By the time this Plague begins to fall, men will have begun the increasing use of tactical atomic weapons in mounting warfare (probably some even in brush-fire wars prior to or early in the Great Tribulation). Use of these weapons will result in increasing pollution of the air and ultimately in radiation damage to all living flesh – all except those especially protected by the mighty power of their God. Only all-out Christians in the protected "Land of Goshen" will escape the burning power of radiation-contaminated atmosphere and land.

Here is pictured the inversion of the plan of Christ. Our God creates and develops. Lucifer takes that which God has brought into being (wood) and disassembles it into ashes (by the furnace). That is the "overcoming" of Lucifer's "church." Those doing it become the "bride" of the Antichrist. This sixth Plague is the sev-

enth sign, beginning with the casting down of Moses' rod. The dust settling on the Gentile world is the residue of chemical breakdown. It is also the practice of chemistry by unregenerate man for his own short-term profit. It obviously includes the development of nuclear weapons which will annihilate all life on earth, except the Son of Man personally stops the process.

The effect of this Plague was to further harden the heart of Pharaoh. Even the frightening prospect of radioactive pollution will not turn the nations from the mad pursuit of their own ends. In due time, the nations will be engaged in the final battle of the ages, symbolically named "Armageddon" (*Rev. 16:14-16*). The Plagues which follow will then unfold very rapidly as the tempo of conflict increases. The magicians of Egypt could not stand before Moses, because they, too, were afflicted. So also, the "wisemen" of the end-time will not be able to controvert the fact that there are those symbolized by Moses who are not being affected by the radiation Plague, having a built-in immunity. In that day the Moses-company leaders will be Manifested Sons who are no longer subject to death. All other Christians who will have placed their *complete* trust in the Lord will also be protected, but they will not be naturally immune.

In the over-all end-time period, each of the foregoing six Plagues has some measure of fulfillment currently and prior to the Great Tribulation, although they continue into the Tribulation period with increasing intensity. Therefore, we should expect to see continued bloodletting, the results of emotional instability, outbreaks of unfamiliar maladies, fears and torments, national financial crises and the application of atomic weaponry whenever "justified." In the short-term end-time view the first three Plagues begin just prior to the Great Tribulation period and build up in intensity. Then the #4 Plague begins at the outset of that period and #5 and #6 start up soon thereafter. From both points of view, the final four Plagues are in effect only during the Great Tribulation period, running somewhat concurrently, although not completely so.

#7 Plague, Hail (*Ex. 9:13-35*)

Moses declares to Pharaoh the rapidity with which events will now take place and the stepped-up tempo of judgment, saying, "this time I will send *all* My Plagues" (*Ex. 9:14*). There followed a great storm bringing thunder, lightning and a very heavy and dreadful hail such as had not been seen since the founding of Egypt (*Ex. 9:18,23-24; Rev. 8:7, 16:21*). Moses stretched forth his rod toward the sky, releasing the powers of heavens characterized by the detonations of nuclear war weapons (*Lk. 21:36*). Heavy discharges of lightning are also a part of the aftermath of nuclear blasts. The storm is symbolic of the worldwide "storm" of conflict which will be gathering momentum in the earth. Wholesale use of nuclear weapons in the final battle of World War III will vaporize large amounts of water which will ascend to the cold upper atmosphere and be frozen into large hail. When too heavy to be supported by the strong winds, the hail will fall upon earth and cause much destruction. Hail is *cold* "water" concentrated and made hard in the air (thoughts of man) by action of the "winds" of man's cold, ruthless decisions based on selfish desire.

But those in the "Land of Goshen" are shielded from the hail, for the Lord will protect all who consistently place their *full* trust in Him (*Ex. 9:26*). Even among the

“Egyptians” there is a measure of protection for those who heed the Word of the Lord (*Ex. 9:19-20*) showing that as the end-time conflict intensifies more and more, people of the world will begin to listen to the Word being spoken by chosen servants and will begin to look to the Lord for protection. He promises to faithfully keep them to the measure of their trust and obedience. At times His chosen servants will warn of severe destruction coming upon certain places and certain cities, and those that heed His Word and do what He tells them shall be preserved. Someone in the proximity of those who do respond must have heard the Lord’s warning; true warning will not be in the newscast. Much preparation in drawing close to the Lord precedes the developed ability to hear accurately.

The great rain and hail almost destroying the land of Egypt is the eighth sign after that of Moses’ rod cast down. The eighth speaks of regeneration. God’s regeneration is to bring men back to Himself. Lucifer’s kingdom is the opposite. Lucifer’s bringing back to himself is by the process of degeneration, so as to be caught in his net to become his. Here we see great contrast. The rain and hail are as never before seen. Rain is provided to refresh the earth and produce new growth and fruits. Hail is the opposite to God’s rain. Hail is hardened rain – frozen, and it brings destruction to almost all of Egypt’s world. The Church which is to become Christ’s own is cleansed by constant washing of the water of the Word, and becomes set-apart (*Eph. 5:26*). The hail brings the opposite, and the love of many shall freeze out (*Matt. 24:11-12*). We are today well into the deep freeze, but the fulfillment begins in its intensity with the opening of Great Tribulation.

The storm was said to be more severe than any since Egypt was founded (*Ex. 9:18*). Since Egypt is a type of the world, the statement becomes synonymous with the prophecy of Jesus, *“then shall be great tribulation such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no nor ever shall be”* (*Matt. 24:21*). Therefore the period of Great Tribulation will have begun by the time this Plague begins to be fulfilled. Like a storm, it will begin gradually and increase in intensity as the Tribulation period progresses. The destruction of the Plague on man, beast and vegetation (*Ex. 9:22*) will not only be from the literal hail which will fall to cause much damage, but it also will be the loss of much life as a result of the intensified conflict which the Plague typifies. The “man, beast, herb of the field and tree of the field struck down and beaten” refer to the persecution of various categories of people – the humanely upright, the depraved, the little people of the masses, and the more aggressive who are stronger willed and leaders.

Because of the timing of the Plague, “the flax and the barley were smitten, for the barley was in ear and the flax in bloom. But the wheat and spelt (rye in some translations) were not smitten, for they ripen late and were not “grown up yet” (*Ex. 9:31-32*). Here are indicated the progressive stages of the “Harvest” during the Great Tribulation period. Barley is the first grain to mature in the spring and is a type of the Firstfruits of the Lord’s harvest, those who enter more fully into His purposes and come into spiritual maturity before the rest. It being “in ear” correlates with the maturity of the full grain in the ear of *Mark 4:28*. The flax just beginning to bloom indicates that these Firstfruits will have the “fruit of righteousness” (*Phil. 1:11, Heb. 12:11*) fulfilled in them in preparation for the marriage supper of the Lamb, for linen is made from flax and fine woven linen is the righteousness of the saints (*Rev. 19:8*). These “barley and flax” Firstfruits are those who

have begun to ripen before the Tribulation period begins. Out of the single Firstfruit sheaf (Jesus Christ), two “loaves” are made (*Lev. 23:10,17*). One is the Bride 144,000 taken from the Christian nations. The other is the 144,000 firstfruits chosen from the Jews. One of these is raised up and glorified (described in the fourth Plague).

There are also other “barley and flax” Christians on earth not included among the two firstfruits groups. These are pictured as being smitten because advanced and more mature Christians still on earth will take the brunt of the persecution which will be an integral part of the intensified conflict of the time. The wheat and spelt (or rye) represent believers who will not be so severely persecuted, because, as whole, they will not be out in the front lines of the struggle. The “storm of conflict” will not only be political and military, but will also be spiritual and religious conflict which takes on increasing importance as the struggle intensifies. The final conflict of the ages is not solely the result of predatory actions of certain nations. It is the consummation of an age-long struggle for the minds and souls of men. It is *primarily* ideological and spiritual.

Outside of the two groups of firstfruits, the wheat and spelt represent believers who are inadequately matured prior to the Great Tribulation and those who are converted during that period, for multitudes will turn to God in that day. The wheat group is made up of the newcomer 60 and 100-fold Christians who mature during the Great Tribulation period. Spelt is another type of wheat, but of inferior quality and *very* difficult to clean of its chaff. It becomes a type of the 30-fold believers, some of whom will be preserved by God’s almighty power through the Tribulation to continue to live upon the earth, but not within the confines of the Kingdom realm.

Not all 30-fold will survive the Tribulation. Most will die, due to inadequate concentration on the Lord’s ways for them. Not even all 60-fold will survive. And the 100-fold who hesitate can also lose out. Then there are some few who will elect death, for the sake of the Kingdom. But the wheat represents those Christians in the 60-fold and the 100-fold categories who will be fully gathered into the “barn” of the Kingdom (*Matt. 13:27-30*). They will mature under the harvest conditions of the Tribulation period, the degree of their progress and maturity determining their category and allotment. The 100-fold “wheat” Christians who will mature in the 100-fold state, will be translated and glorified at the close of the Tribulation and gathered into the heavenly Kingdom. Those remaining 60-fold Christians will stay on or return to earth to be gathered into the earthly Kingdom, eventually to enter into immortality in human flesh. Since the “barley” Christians have reached a commendable measure of maturity or ripeness before the Tribulation begins, they will all be 100-fold and will all enter into the heavenly Kingdom – a loaf at the beginning of the Tribulation and the rest at the close of the Tribulation.

As a result of the seventh Plague, Pharaoh was moved to relent and asked Moses and Aaron to entreat the Lord to remove the mighty thunderings and hail (*Ex. 9:27-28*). But Moses was not deceived by the pretense (*Ex. 9:30*). Moses told Pharaoh that he and his subjects would not yet fear the Lord God, but would sin yet more, toughening a hard heart. So it will be for many of the world during the intense pressures of the Tribulation period. Because of the seriousness of the world situa-

tion and increasingly chaotic conditions in many places, many will turn with feigned heart to the Lord and will seek out His servants to ask prayer for themselves. But once pressures seem to lighten a little and there seems to be a way out of their predicament, they will sin yet more and harden their hearts.

However, God's true servants will not be deceived by those who are not truly repentant, the power of the Holy Spirit will be working so mightily among His people that the "unclean and uncircumcised" will not go undetected. They will not be permitted to enter and contaminate the assemblies of the saints (*Isa. 52:1-2*). Those who are sincere will be welcomed and helped, but those whose motives are tainted with corrupt designs will be discerned and exposed. Pretenders will not be allowed to remain and sow their seeds of mischief, for the Lord will have a pure work and the seed of the enemy will not be permitted to take root before being quickly dealt with by the true shepherds. Increasingly in the assemblies of serious Christians, they will have to become and remain alert to discern those who at the moment speak the right words and even have the right approach toward the Lord, but who do not really mean business with our Father in adverse times as well as good.

During the earlier Plagues it is said Pharaoh hardened his heart or that his heart was hardened. But during the latter Plagues, it is said that God hardened Pharaoh's heart (*Ex. 9:12, 10:1,20,27*). In the day of evil's consummation, the Lord has promised to send a strong delusion upon those who persist in not loving the truth, that they should believe a lie (*II Thess. 2:9-12*). The Lord is justified in doing this because He is able to know the point at which the unrepentant sinner will under no foreseeable circumstances turn from his evil ways. God does this in order to more quickly bring about an impasse so that the catastrophic struggle which shall sweep away humanity's refuge of lies will not be prolonged (*Matt. 24:22*). By enabling men to be more thoroughly deluded in ways they are convinced they should follow, God is able to get them quickly to set in motion those forces and actions which precipitate the world into judgment. Also, in contrast, His mighty deliverance is then more profoundly shown to men who do put their trust in Him. Those hardened to do evil must be more severely dealt with. Thus the conflagration and the whirlwind of judgment become so great that *none* can survive, except those protected by God. As a result, the impact of such a worldwide reckoning with the sinful ways of man will long be remembered and told to succeeding generations, as a strong deterrent to any future deviation from the paths of righteousness (*Ex. 10:1-2*).

#8 Plague, Locusts (*Ex. 10:3-20*)

The devastation of the eighth Plague, added to that of the seventh Plague, is brought about by an invasion of locusts from the east (*Ex. 10:4,13*). Before the Plague came, Pharaoh was warned and, on the advice of his servants, became willing to relent and let only the men go. But Moses insisted that all go, including herds and flocks. Pharaoh then scoffingly refused (*Ex. 10:3-11*). In the great day of battle which is coming, Satan will never cease to try to get the Christians to compromise in one way or another. Satanic-controlled forces in the dictatorial society of the beast empire will put every conceivable pressure upon Christians who refuse to conform and support the regime. Nevertheless, those who are determined to remain true to Jesus Christ shall gain the victory over the beast, over his image

(likeness of his nature), over his mark and the number of his name (*Rev. 15:2*). In that day, God will protect and preserve all who will have placed their *complete* trust in Him; and they shall be fully delivered out of the Egypt of this world into the Kingdom prepared.

Following Pharaoh's refusal, there came the greatest invasion of locusts ever experienced in Egypt (*Ex. 10:13-15*). The whole land was darkened by them and they completely devastated every green thing. Locusts symbolically denote invasion and destruction by armies (*Joel 1:4-7, Rev. 9:7*). The east wind bringing the locusts indicates vast hordes from the "east" marching against the "west." The myriads of locusts were brought into the land by a strong east wind blowing through a day and a night. In the morning the locusts were there, so many that they covered and darkened everything, leaving no green thing. In the Lord's prophetic measure, a day and a night total 42 years (*Jn. 9:4* – age 12 to 33 = 21 year "day"). It was about 1945 when post-war Russia began to be strengthened by Christian nations. World War III is closer than we like, and it will devastate the land.

This plague was the ninth sign, the first being Moses' rod thrown down. The number nine introduces a spiritual factor. On the positive side, it shows spirituality, utopia, and good in God's Kingdom. It is going out to "cloud nine" in today's parlance. Christians *may* live in God's Kingdom now. But in Lucifer's application, it is an inversion of utopia, building destruction and bloodshed in streams. It is but a further phase of the great storms of conflict shown under the seventh Plague. The nations of the "east" under the banner of the hammer and sickle, will move to conquer all who stand in their way toward complete world domination. Many nations and areas of the world will be affected, but the most strategic area affecting the final phases of world conflict will be the Middle East. That area will be almost completely overrun and the then onrushing tide will engulf much of Europe. However, the die is cast for lethal annihilation through east-west conflict when the Middle East and Palestine are inflamed in war. The fifth and sixth Trumpets also symbolically picture these marching hordes from the east (*Rev. 9*).

The outcome of this Plague was an earnest entreaty by Pharaoh, with confession of sin and request for forgiveness (*Ex. 10:16-17*). Although Pharaoh's heart was later hardened again, indicating Satan's continued hold on vast numbers of people, yet the symbolic entreaty is significant. It shows that many people of the world, especially in western nations, will earnestly seek Divine help as they see the increasing threat of attack and invasion by armies of the east. In answer to this entreaty there will be a quickening by the Holy Spirit to further a spiritual revolution which will be already then sweeping through the world.

Particularly in the West, where Christian influence and training have been more thoroughly ingrained in the mental fabric of the peoples, there will be a turning to the Lord as never before. As a result, this influence will begin to reach into the higher levels of leadership and government. Many will begin to break loose from the satanic delusions that have held them and they will see that further compromise with the beast of communism means certain suicide. For the first time in years, a real desire and will to resist further communist advances will rise up in those western nations which have been strongholds of Protestant Christianity. By this time most Catholic countries will have been completely taken over by Communist forces

and the Vatican hierarchy will have fled to the North American continent. According to the Bible and history, Catholic communicants are by far mostly 30-fold and so they will have no strong tie to the Lord. Therefore, most are certain to fall into communism under the pressures from the beast government.

Protestants have a much larger proportion of 60-fold in their ranks; the 60-fold have an unbreakable biological tie to Christ. Eventually, that tie will draw them into a decision to resist the communist drive. They will come to recognize communism for what it is, the materialistic religion of Satan. And the ruler of the confederation of communist nations will be recognized for whom he is, Satan himself. The Spirit of God will reveal these things to them, as substantial numbers of sincere Christians turn to the Lord as never before. An awakened Christendom in the nations which still have a small measure of freedom will spur those in authority to action. Coupled with this will be a revolutionary awakening among Jewish people, as many of them turn from unbelief to accept Jesus as their Messiah. Along with the religious revolution will be the concern of most Jews for the nation of Israel, for Palestine will be threatened with complete devastation by communist hordes.

It will then be fulfilled, according to the type, that the "Lord turned a violent west wind which took away the locusts and drove them into the Red Sea" (*Ex. 10:19*). The strong west wind is the might of certain western nations rising to strike down all the communist forces, possible only because of the Lord's wisdom and strategy given to those in authority by His specially chosen servants of that day. Were it not for the "arm of the Lord" rising to help those who will have cried out to their God, there would be no hope whatsoever of turning the tide of communist conquest. It is the Lord who shall battle for His people in that day (*Matt. 24:21-22*). The armies of Gog shall be utterly confounded (*Ezek. 38 and 39*) and they shall be driven into a Red Sea of destruction. Truly the Lord shall be exalted in that day and all shall know that His mighty arm has worked deliverance for those who look to Him. The turning back of the red hordes will be accompanied by the beginnings of a short nuclear holocaust as the Satan-controlled leaders of the Kremlin try desperately to ward off certain defeat. Seeing their plans for world domination being frustrated, they will make one last effort to destroy the western nations by employing their entire nuclear weapons arsenal. This will be met by the mounting of the atomic armada of the west. Obviously, there will be staggering destruction on both sides, but in the Lord's providence He will see that the Satan-inspired conspiracy of communism is completely crushed. World War III will begin shortly after the halfway mark in the 3 1/2 years described in *Revelation 11, 12 and 13*, and it will continue throughout a period of almost 21 months, even to the end of the age. The final battle with its nuclear exchange will follow the rapture of the Lord's Harvest and will climax ten days later on the Day of Atonement. The earth will be covered with her slain on that day.

#9 Plague, Darkness (*Ex. 10:21-29*)

As Pharaoh's heart was hardened again, Moses was commanded to stretch out his hand toward heaven in order to bring a darkness over the land of Egypt such as might be felt (*Ex. 10:21-22*). Thick darkness would cover the whole land for three days.

All of the Plagues continue into and during the Great Tribulation period, but the seventh and eighth Plagues, in intensity, are effective only during the Tribulation period, and primarily its last half. It was not feasible to show much of the detail of fulfillment in the type, therefore, the Lord is now showing by revelation how the Plagues dovetail together in their end-time application. The ninth Plague also falls during the entire Great Tribulation. In type, it is placed at this point in the sequence, because of the intensity of darkness which will characterize the latter part of the Tribulation period. The three days of darkness symbolize the approximate three years of Great Tribulation, since in this the Lord appoints one day for a year (*Ezek. 4:6*). The Tribulation period will actually take place within a period of 3 1/2 years, but in typical drama of Scripture the round number usage prevails when portraying time patterns.

The Egyptians could not see one another, nor did they rise out of their places during the three days. But the Israelites had light in *their dwellings* (*Ex. 10:22-23*). During the three days, there was also darkness throughout Goshen, for darkness covered all Egypt, of which Goshen was a part. Those who were Israelites had light in their houses. After the separation of the Firstfruits, darkness will cover the earth. Many believers will be tormented. Many will lose their lives. This will be the darkness for them. During three full calendar years, a substantial part of the world will be subject to Lucifer's power. Therefore in each today, every believer should be doing his utmost to become prepared to stand on his own two feet in righteousness, even in an environment of utter spiritual darkness. The light within the personal "dwelling place" is to be perpetual and increasing in its intensity.

The light in Goshen was a supernatural light provided for the Israelites only, it being a manifestation of the "Shekinah Glory" of God. Likewise in the days of Great Tribulation, the Light will be the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit for those who are indwelt by His power and glory; also it will be the supernatural appearance of the glorified saints to give instruction and help. The Lord will not leave His own to grope in the darkness of fear and uncertainty, as people in the ways of the world will do (*I Thess. 5:1-9*). He will guide and protect, even during the days of extreme crises when the world will be plunged into almost complete chaos. The world (Egypt) will be filled with terror, its people not knowing what to do or where to go (*Isa. 13:4-8, Lk. 21:25-26*). And for those not awake, it will be a time of gross and intense darkness such as the world has never seen. All news media will be controlled, contributing to the dense darkness upon all not familiar with the Word of God. Many shall perish for lack of direction. People will be afraid to venture out and will cower in their houses like frightened animals during the final phase of the east-west conflict. The Lord will send a spirit of delusion upon them, because they do now and continue then to refuse the light and truth (*II Thess. 2:9-12*).

As a result of this Plague, Pharaoh offered to let the people go if they would leave their flocks behind. Moses refused because he knew God must be served with the entirety of one's being, not with reservation or half-heartedly. Moses indicated there was a need for sacrifices and burnt offerings of the flesh to God (*Ex. 10:25*). Animals are a type of human nature's basic propensities, abilities and drives. And all of that nature must be submitted on the Altar to the fire of the Lord's purging, that it might be sublimated and transformed and channeled toward His glory.

The primary Old Testament sacrifice was the “whole burnt offering.” The whole animal burned upon the Altar typified the dedication to do God’s will with the entirety of one’s being. Today, we offer and offer and offer, constantly trying to learn how to offer *all*. But then one day, He accepts the offer as *all* and it is Holy Spirit Baptism for that one. The perfect fulfillment was when Jesus Christ gave Himself in life and in death to do the Father’s will (*Heb. 10:5-7*), and through Him, it is fulfilled in all others who give themselves as a living sacrifice to their God (*Rom. 12:1-2*).

Nothing is to be held back from the Altar (*Ex. 10:26*). The hoof is symbolic of the lowest or basest of human traits, and not one can be left out of the sacrifice in Egypt’s land. There can be no concourse with or conformity to the world order. Those who would be used effectively in the coming Tribulation days must be totally on the Altar as a whole burnt offering. For those who want to be received into the heavenly Kingdom of Christ, there can be no holding back, not even a hoof. There should be no provision for one’s own fleshly ways. One should *make* room and provision for the life of the Spirit, giving himself wholly to the Lord, and, as a trumpet, warn others of the coming day of battle (*Rom. 13:14, Isa. 58:1*).

Pharaoh’s heart was hardened again; he refused to let the people go, and he even refused to see Moses any more. Moses, sensing that deliverance was close, agreed not to see him again (*Ex. 10:28-29*) and the final Plague was at hand. The Israelites had been slaves to Egypt and had not received all that was due them. But NOW they were to be delivered from their bondage with much riches (*Ex. 11:1-3*). They were to be paid all their back wages. What a faithful Lord! So they were specifically instructed to take whatever was offered them at their departure, but especially they were to ask for and receive their wages in jewels of silver and jewels of gold (*Ex. 11:2*).

The accumulation of these treasures at their departure is significant, because it is descriptive of what must be in the possession of every saint who is to be translated out of this world to enter the heavenly Kingdom. The foremost of these is gold. Gold is a type of the impartations of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. It is also the tried and proven character that has come through the fires of refining experience as pure gold. Silver is a type of the soul and soul qualities, and it is also a type of the redemptive work of Christ. Through the redemptive power of His cleansing and life, the soul is redeemed and made new, its fabric woven with the very righteousness of Jesus Christ. They were to take all of the gifts offered; and so are we. Of course, these gifts are not to be limited to the *I Corinthians 12* list, but are also to be strengths for overcoming hindrances and the joys of established new habit patterns.

The plague of hail pictures the hard, cold soul of man bringing destruction and a freezing out of the love of God, through *degeneration*. And the flax and the barley are smitten. Therefore, the seventh Plague has some effect even before the Great Tribulation and rapture of the Firstfruits Bride. The tormenting, devastating locusts and their work of destroying people’s outlets into pleasure also have a measure of effect prior to the disappearance of the Firstfruits. The ninth Plague brought darkness, but the darkness at the end of this 1,000 year day is not sudden. It is, however, rapidly progressive into the dense darkness of Great Tribulation.

Now is the time to let the Holy Spirit do a perfecting work within so you may be

adorned with His gold and His silver and be fully ready to be received into the glory awaiting. The “Day of the Lord” is at hand, and He is coming to His people as the rising morning sun. Only those who are awake – when the dawn begins to break are able to see the early light, for though the light is dawning, others yet asleep are still in darkness. He is calling, Wake up (*Eph. 5:14-17, II Pet. 1:19*). As the Lord called the Israelites to prepare for the darkness, He now calls for preparation in this hour. *This* is the day of preparation, but soon it will close.

#10 Plague, Death of Firstborn (*Ex. 11:4-10, 12:1-41*)

In preparation for this final Plague, so they would receive protection, the Israelites were to take a lamb for *each* household and set it apart on the 10th day of the month. On the 14th day of the month, in the evening, they were to kill the lamb and sprinkle its blood on the two side-posts and on the lintel above the doorway. The need for the sacrifice of the Lamb of God was at the fall of Adam, and the sacrifice was 4,000 years later. Each family was to eat its lamb in haste, *fully prepared* for departure and journey (*Ex. 12:1-13*). The blood of the lamb upon their house was their protection during this final Plague in which the firstborn of man and beast in all Egypt were taken away. The 10th Plague was the consummating judgment and constituted the final wrath of the Almighty on Egypt and her gods (*Ex. 12:12*).

This final judgment on Egypt previews the fulfillment of these things at the completion of our age now drawing to its close. The Lord will bring an end to what is now called civilization. It is almost completely contrary to His will, being based on the worship of many gods that are constantly placed ahead of or before Him. This bringing to an end will not at all be a reversion to the cave man ways and tools, but will be a dismantling of the system of operation of the things man has devised and built outside of the Lord’s perfect plan. Today, millions of Christians (symbolized in much of Scripture by “Jerusalem”) are preoccupied with the gods of material things and pursuits of pleasure, and have little time for serious consideration of God’s Word and His ways. They are caught up in the Babylonian systems which are destructive to real faith and dedication, and they lean constantly on the “arm of flesh” rather than utterly trusting in Jesus Christ (*Jer. 17:3-5*). They have hewn for themselves cisterns which can hold no water, and they have forsaken provisions within the three fountains of living water – 30, 60, 100-fold enablements (*Jer. 2:11-13, Gen. 26:20-22*). They rely on empty forms and dead works to try to accomplish the Lord’s purposes.

In the religious world, it is either idolatrous organizations which hold Christians captive, or idolatrous unbelief clothed in sophistry and worldly wisdom which leads God’s people astray. In the political world, it is the selfish grasping opportunists who dominate the affairs of most nations, leading them into paths of eventual tyranny. In the commercial world, it is traffic in everything, including the souls of men, with very little consideration for the ultimate welfare of human lives (*Rev. 18:9-13*). Judgment has already begun to descend, and it will not let up until a mighty cry in the night has risen, even as in the land of Egypt (*Ex. 12:29-30*).

The death angel which went over the land of Egypt, slaying the firstborn in every family where the blood was not applied, is a type of the power of destruction which will be unleashed in nuclear warfare. There are two signs given in Scripture

which are of utmost importance. When they came to pass every Christian should have been alerted to the imminence of the end-time events. The first was the explosion of the atom bomb (1945). In that release of the atom's energy, the very powers of the heavens were shaken and disrupted (*Lk. 21:26*). Man found out how to interrupt normal functioning of God's laws and how to confuse them into the titanic destructive force of atomic fission and fusion. The second was the Jews declaring themselves a reborn nation (1948). Then came the shooting forth of the fig tree nation of Israel in 1949-1950 (*Lk. 21:28-30*).

It is written that when you see these things come to pass (begin), know that the Kingdom of God is at hand. The generation seeing them shall not pass away until *all* is fulfilled (*Lk. 21:31-32*). However, Christians are woefully uninformed and almost totally asleep and unaware of the significance of the time in which they live (*Jer. 5:23-25; 6:4,10-23*). A few here and there are beginning to awake and to sound the midnight cry which shall rouse the sleeping virgins (*Matt. 25:6, Jer. 3:12-18*). It was 430 years from Jacob's entry into Egypt to the time when the Lord started to move His people out of Egypt's bondage. It is also 430 years since the Protestant Reformation became established with political government to ensure their protection and provision, until the time our Lord initiates the new things of this end-time.

The pass-over of the atomic "death angel" will affect all except those who have the blood of the Passover Lamb sprinkled on the doorposts of their beings. It will be true again, as it was then, that when He sees the blood He will pass over them and the Plague will not be upon them to destroy them when He smites the whole land of the "Egypt" world (*Ex. 12:13*). It is the blood of Jesus Christ, applied by faith to the sin-stained (rebellious) soul (the firstborn), that washes it clean and preserves it from death. This is the present soul preservation enjoyed by Christians (*Eph. 1:7, I Pet. 1:18-19, Rev. 5:9*). But it is that same blood which shall serve also as a protecting shelter for even the physical body during the coming day of wrath for those who do not leave the shelter (*Ex. 15:26*).

The lintel was the upper or horizontal doorway structure and stands for the physical which will receive protection. The two vertical sideposts stand for the soul which receives both cleansing and preservation through the shed blood of Christ. Spirit is not soul and soul is not spirit; they are separate and distinct in man's being (*I Thess. 5:23*). Both body and soul are subject to death because of sin-rebellion, but this is not so of man's spirit. The human spirit is of the very substance of God, Who is the Father of spirits (*Heb. 12:9, Num. 16:22*). The spirit within each human has been alienated from God because of sin and needs to be reconciled, but is not subject to death. Therefore, once the spirit is reconciled through Jesus Christ, then its garments of soul-body and physical-body need to be saved or preserved from death. When a spirit begotten of the Father is placed within the unborn embryo (*Eccles. 11:5, Zech. 12:1*) and brings it to life (*Jms. 2:26, Jn. 6:63, Gen. 2:7*), its innate powers take of the living substance within the developing organism and form a finely tenuous vehicle called the soul. The soul then becomes a garment of the spirit, a means or medium of expression through the physical. The soul becomes the seat or essence of personality, the mental-emotional-volitional nature. Since the soul partakes of and is sustained by the life forces of the physical, it is therefore subject to death as is the physical body (*Ezek. 18:20-21*). Thus both body and soul

need to be saved or preserved (*I Thess. 5:23*).

A doorway represents an entrance into something, but it is also an exit. The human spirit makes its entrance into the physical world through the doorway of embodiment within the human embryo which is enlivened by it and later born into the world. The spirit makes its exit from the physical world through the doorway of death, losing the physical and mortal garment. But a spirit needs garments or vehicles for its growth in understanding and for its continued progress in the plan and purpose of God (*Matt. 12:43, II Cor. 5:1-4*), and so death of either physical body or soul is tragic loss for the spirit.

In type, the blood of the lamb sprinkled upon *both* the lintel and the side posts is that blood later shed by Jesus Christ which would provide an atonement and *release* from death for both soul and physical body. Cleansing and release from death for the soul come through applying the blood of Christ, within *the Faith (I Pet. 1:2, 18, 19)*. But the impartation (possession) of eternal life for both body and soul begins through the engrafted seed of the living Christ (*Jms. 1:21, I Pet. 1:23, Jn. 5:24*).

When a soul is thus generated anew through the incorruptible seed it becomes a deathless vehicle for the human spirit. In the event of death of the physical body, the soul then becomes the functioning vehicle for the spirit in the superterrestrial realms. But, if the soul has not been saved, its life forces gradually abate and it slowly disintegrates, eventually perishing (*Heb. 10:38-39*). The spirit, without "garments" and naked, then ascends and returns to God who gave it, for His disposition (*Eccles. 12:7*). In the coming days when the full force of the judgmental Plagues descends upon the earth, only the *applied* blood will avail for protection and deliverance.

This final Plague of the atomic "death angel" which shall pass over the earth, has a measure of fulfillment during the portion of the Great Tribulation just prior to the Harvest uptaking. But its more complete fulfillment will be during the final days of Wrath when all-out atomic war will destroy hundreds of millions per day. The tenth Plague corresponds in the prophetic picture to the seven Bowls of Wrath (*Rev. 16*).

Although in the type, the Israelites were not fully liberated until the tenth Plague was set in motion, there is here a veiled mystery. It was at midnight that the Lord smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, and there was a great cry in Egypt (*Ex. 12:29-30*). This corresponds to the midnight hour and the shout heard by the wise and foolish virgins (*Matt. 25:6*). Of course, there is more than one application here. The Lord then smites the earth in different ways. The final smiting will be by atomic holocaust, but the beginning of the smiting will be His strange work of shaking the church world with the calling out of the wise virgins at the midnight hour.

There is a veiled double meaning to the smiting of the firstborn. In a spiritual sense, the firstborn are those who will enter first into the heavenly Kingdom as Firstfruits to God (*Rev. 14:1-5*). These are the wise virgins who will be received by the Bridegroom at the beginning of the Great Tribulation. In this way, the careless church world will be smitten as by a thief who breaks into the household (*Lk.*

12:39-40) to take away its jewels (*Mal. 3:16-17*). And a great cry will go up from the nominal church world as the shock of what has happened begins to fully register. The beginning of deliverance of those who are fully the Lord's from the "Egypt" of this world takes place at the start of the Great Tribulation. The foolish virgins and also the Tribulation saints will be taken at the close of the 3 1/2 years of Tribulation, just as the seven Bowls of Wrath are readied to be poured out.

Therefore, in the tenth Plague, there is a time-pattern which is somewhat veiled in the type. Pharaoh's willingness to let the people go shows that Satan's power will begin to be broken when the Firstfruits are glorified. This is also shown by the disclosure that when the "Manchild" is caught up to God and to His Throne, Satan is cast out of *his* heaven and onto the earth (*Rev. 12:9*). Because he knows his time is short, he comes down with great wrath and causes great havoc before his power is completely broken. The havoc is pictured by the Plagues that came upon Egypt when Pharaoh repeatedly hardened his heart (the great wrath of *Revelation 12:12*). Yet at the same time that he is hardening his heart, his power is being gradually broken.

Exodus 14

Then later, Pharaoh's heart was hardened once more to pursue the fleeing Israelites as they left Egypt. It was his one last effort to reestablish his former power. And so at the close of the Tribulation, Satan will cause the leaders of the Kremlin to launch their all-out nuclear attack on the west. Men on earth cannot pursue those who will have been glorified and taken into heavenlies, and Satan will have taken on the limitations of human form. Therefore, the object of Satan's wrath through his human puppets will be the western Christian nations which will have been instrumental in turning back the communist's bid for world domination.

The term "Israelites" (*Ex. 14:2*) has a two-fold meaning in its last day spiritual application. First they are the saints who are taken and fully delivered from the "Egypt" of this world. These will have safely crossed over the "Red Sea" of destruction into the heavenly realm and Kingdom by the beginning of the Bowls of Wrath period and will be completely out of reach during Satan's final onslaught. Second, they are those Christian nations of the west which will largely turn to the Lord during the Tribulation. Those who turn receive deliverance through the blood covenant, but still they will be the objects of Satan's final pursuit of terror. As with the Israelites at the Red Sea, only a miraculous and providential turn of events will enable the nations of the west to escape without being totally annihilated. At the crucial moment, the success of the "Red Sea" of communist atomic attack will be thwarted and the Satan-inspired hosts of the communist world will be buried in the very nuclear holocaust which they have begun (*Ps. 94:22-23*). This does not mean that the western nations will escape all destruction – far from it. Yet, in comparison to what would have happened had not the Almighty intervened, the turning back will be regarded as a great deliverance.

The deliverance of the Israelites by the destruction of the Egyptians at the Red Sea is the amplification and the extension of the tenth Plague. It is one of the prophetic pictures of the final wrath of God, implemented through men's selfishness, on all who are to be swept away as so much refuse in preparation for the new millennial Kingdom on earth. In that hour, only God's power will be able to deliver

(*Ex. 14:13-14*). In that day, He will separate those who consistently put their utter trust in Him, and the Angel of His Presence will stand between them and those who have led themselves into destruction (*Ex. 14:19-20*). He shall be a protecting cover over the blood-redeemed, but He shall be as the darkness of chaos and doom to those who do not submit to His righteousness. The flood-tide of battle shall overwhelm them and they shall perish from the earth (*Isa. 13:9*).

Exodus 15:1-19

After the crossing of the Red Sea and deliverance from the Egyptians, the Israelites sang a song to the Lord. In our own time *after* deliverance from the Great Tribulation, the redeemed and glorified saints will also sing the Song of Moses and the Song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and marvelous are your works, O Lord God Almighty, just and true are your ways, O King of Saints" (*Rev. 15:3*). Many shall see His great and marvelous works in this last day, and His power will be evident among those who have made themselves fully His, and His power shall be mighty in the overthrow of the forces of wickedness. But more important than this is that the inhabitants of the earth will then begin to learn His ways, which *are* true and just. And in time, the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of His glory, and the saints in glory shall reign in righteousness over a cleansed and fully redeemed earth.